

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1539

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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REF: STATE 42860

SUMMARY. WELLESLEY COLLEGE DEAN DISCUSSED YANG SISTERS' CASE WITH USLO AND ACCEPTED DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING PROCEDURES GIRLS SHOULD FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. WELLESLEY COLLEGE DEAN ALICE ILCHMAN CALLED AT USLO ON MARCH 19 TO DISCUSS THE YANG SISTERS CASE.

2. SHE INFORMED US THAT SHE HAD NOT MADE ANY ATTEMPT TO SEE THE YANG SISTERS, BUT ASKED OUR OPINION AS TO WHETHER SHE SHOULD MAKE A REQUEST THROUGH HER HOST ORGANIZATION INTERPRETER TO MEET WITH THE YANG SISTERS' MOTHER, A WELLESLEY GRADUATE (AS IS THE YANG SISTERS' GRANDMOTHER).

3. WE REPLIED THAT SINCE THEREHAD BEEN CORRESPONDENCE WITH ALL THREE AND THAT SHE WAS THE DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY THAT IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE APPROPRIATE.

4. WE NOTED THAT SUCH REQUESTS SOMETIMES WERE AND SOMETIMES WERE NOT GRANTED. IF HERS WERE, DEAN ILCHMAN INTENDS TO INFORM THE GIRLS' MOTHER HOW TO PROCEED ALONG THE LINES OF PARA 4 REFTL. IF NOT, SHE WILL WRITE ALONG THE SAME LINES.

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5. BECAUSE OF STATEMENTS IN SOME OF THE CORRESPONDENCE (REPORTED SEPTTEL), SHE RAISED THE QUESTION OF ACCESS TO USLO AND WE INFORMED HER THAT THE GIRLS WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A PASS TO ENTER THE COMPOUND. WE SAID WE DID NOT KNOW TO WHICH AUTHORITIES APPLICATION FOR SUCH A PASS SHOULD BE MADE.

WE ALSO SAID THEY COULD MAKE AN APPOINTMENT EITHER BY WRITING OR TELEPHONING AND WE WOULD CLEAR THEM WITH THE GATE GUARDS. WE NOTED THAT THE GUARD WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE THEIR NAMES, SINCE THEY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR IDENTITY CARDS IN ANY EVENT, AND WOULD REPORT THEIR ENTRY. WE SAID WE DID NOT KNOW TO WHOM THE REPORT WOULD BE MADE OR WHAT FOLLOW-UP THERE WOULD BE BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

6. DEAN ILCHMAN DID NOT PRESS THE MATTER OF ACCESS AND SEEMED SATISFIED WITH THE PROCEDURE. SHE COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD BE UP TO THE GIRLS TO MAKE A DECISION AS TO WHETHER THEY SHOULD LIKE TO ENTER USLO, AND CERTAINLY DID NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEIR ACCESS OR LACK THEREOF WAS OF GREAT CONCERN. IN FACT, SHE DID SAY THAT THERE WAS SOME DIVISION AMONG WELLESLEY OFFICIALS AS TO THE ADVISABILITY OF ACCEPTING THE GIRLS AT WELLESLEY, GIVEN THE LACK OF ANY REAL INFORMATION ON THEIR ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS. (SHE NOTED THAT ONE OF WELLESLEY'S MORE FAMOUS GRADUATES IS MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK).

7. SHE ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE GIRLS DID NOT WISH TO APPLY FOR A US PASSPORT BUT WISHED TO TRAVEL ON A CHINESE PASSPORT. WE EXPLAINED THE PROCEDURES WHICH WE WOULD FOLLOW UNDER 8 FAM 224.19B. DEAN ILCHMAN ALSO COMMENTED THAT WELLESLEY DID NOT WISH TO GET INVOLVED IN THE IMMIGRATION ASPECTS OF THE YANG SISTERS' PARENTS.

8. DEAN ILCHMAN DEPARTED PEKING MARCH 21, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER SHE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING AN APPOINTMENT. SHE DID LEAVE COMPLETED FORM I-20A'S FOR EACH OF THE GIRLS-- SHOULD THEY WISH TO APPLY FOR STUDENT VISAS.
JENKINS

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